

# NASA Instrument Incubator Program (IIP) MISTiC™ Winds

Midwave Infrared Sounder for Temperature and humidity  
in a Constellation for Winds

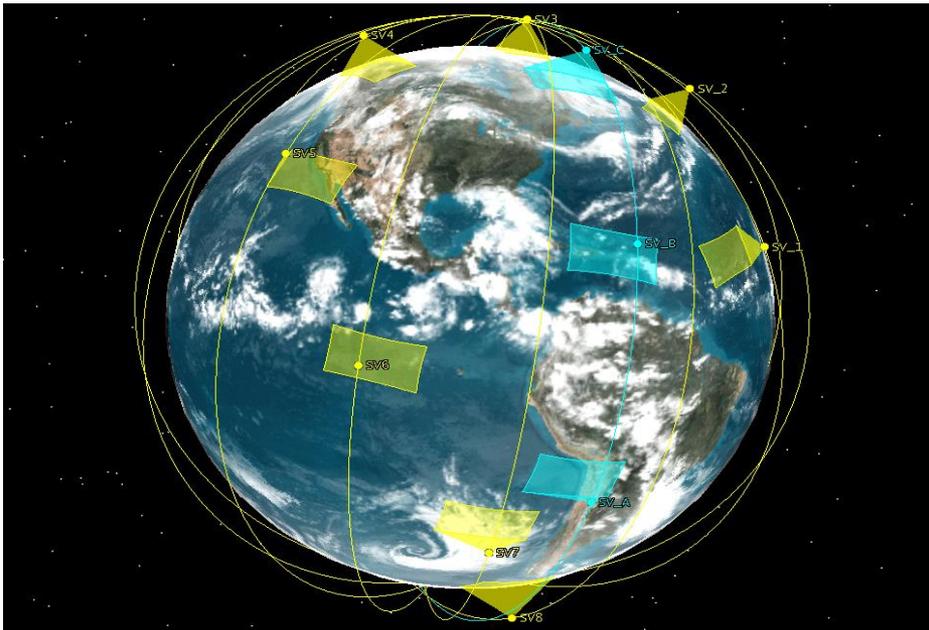
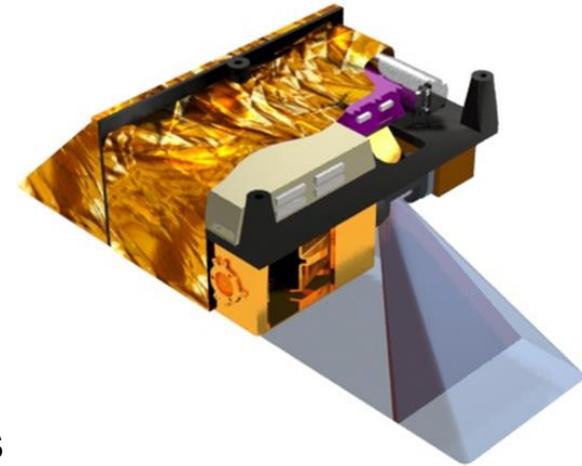
Earth Science Technology Forum  
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# MISTiC™ Winds

An Affordable System of Systems Approach for the Observation of Atmospheric Dynamics



## MISTiC™ Winds

- Provides High Spatial/Temporal Resolution Temperature and Humidity Soundings of the Troposphere
  - Atmospheric State and Motion
  - Improved short term weather forecasting
- Enabled by:
  - LEO Constellation Approach
  - Micro-Sat-Compatible Instrument
  - Low-Cost Micro-Sat Launch

NASA ESTO IIP PI: Kevin R. Maschhoff,  
BAE Systems

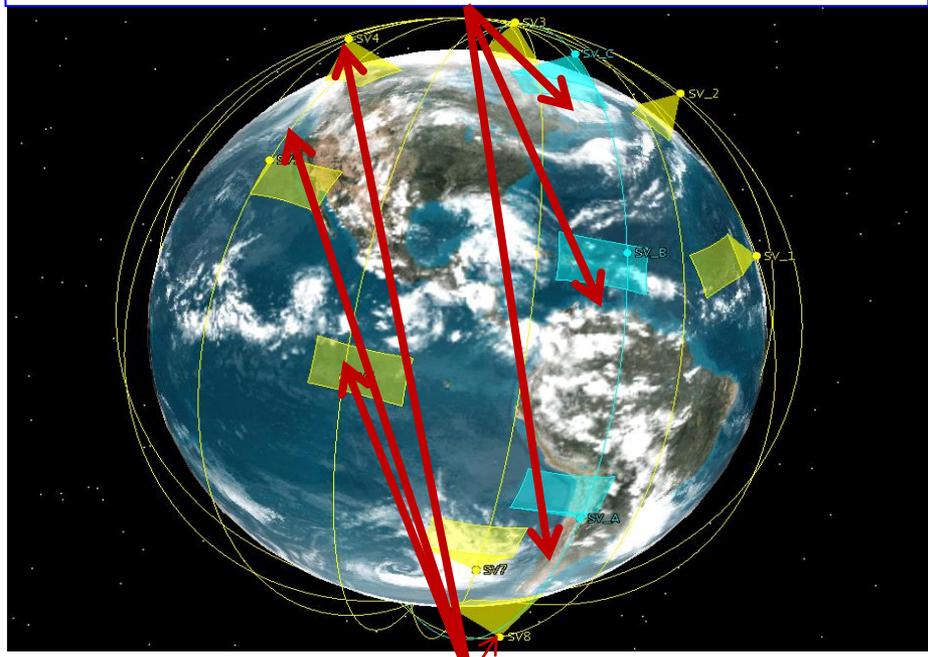
Science Team: H. H. Aumann JPL,  
J. Susskind NASA GSFC

# MISTiC™ Winds- Two Affordable Measurement Concepts to Reduce Weather Forecasting Errors

- MISTiC™ Winds Temperature and Humidity Sounding Constellation Options.
  1. Frequent-Sounding Constellation
    - e.g. 90 min refresh-globally.
  2. Wind-Vector Formations
    - e.g. 4 3-Satellite Formations for Cloud-Drift and Water Vapor Motion-Vector Winds
      - Provide 3-Hr Refresh for 3D Winds *and* Atmospheric Soundings

**Miniature Spectrometers Operated in Constellations Offer Lower Cost /Lower Risk Approach than GEO for Frequent-Refresh IR Soundings & 3-D Winds**

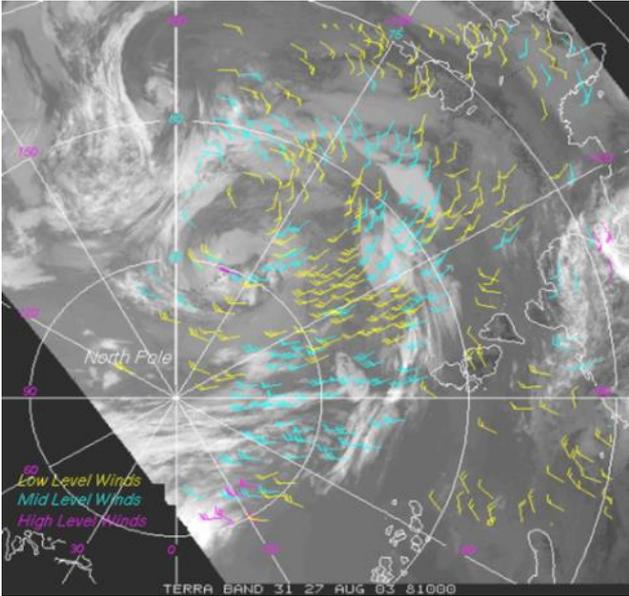
***Motion-Vector Winds Formation (blue)***



***90 min Refresh of IR Soundings Provided by Spectrometers in 8 Orbital Planes (gold)***

# MISTiC Winds Observes the 3D Vector Wind Profile

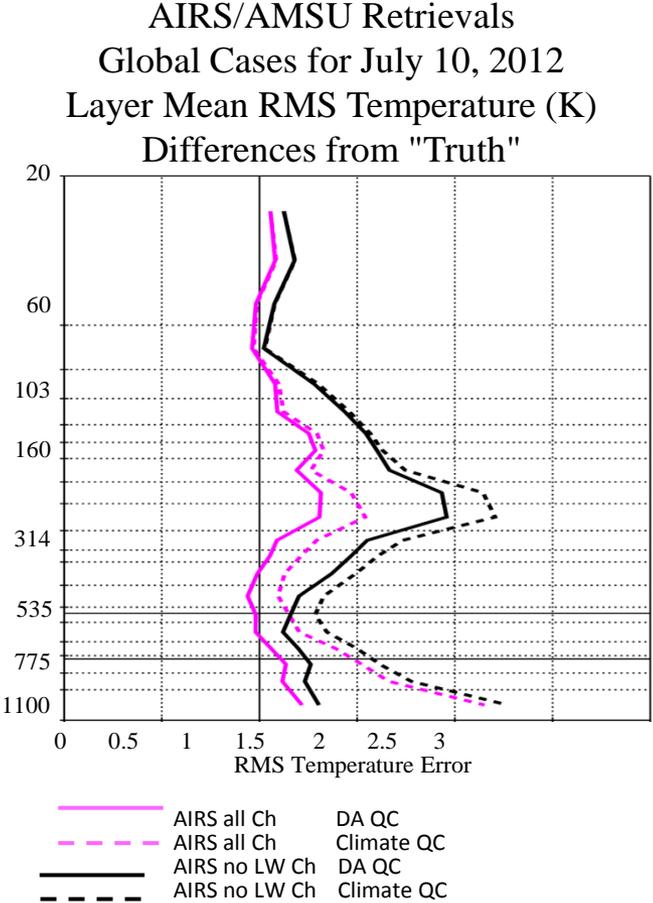
- MISTiC Winds Observes 3D Atmosphere at 3 closely spaced times to Produce Multi-Altitude Motion-Vector Winds
  - Projected Wind Speed Error ~ 2 m/s rms
    - ~3x better than projected for GOES-R
  - SWIR/MWIR Imaging/Sounding Provides Much Better Tracer Height Assignment than GOES
    - 1K/1 km Temperature Sounding Enables Separation of Temperature and Moisture Concentration Contributions to Radiance
  - Both Moisture and Cloud Motion Vector Winds Observed by MISTiC
- OSSE's Show that 3D-Winds Observations Would Have the Largest Impact on Short Term Weather Forecast of Any New Observation
  - MISTiC Observes Thermodynamic State and Mass-Field Motion



***MISTIC Winds' Tracers Features Would Have Better Vertical Resolution Than MODIS Winds (shown) and GOES Imagers***

# MISTiC™ Winds' Concept Based on Proven Science From Current Flight Instruments

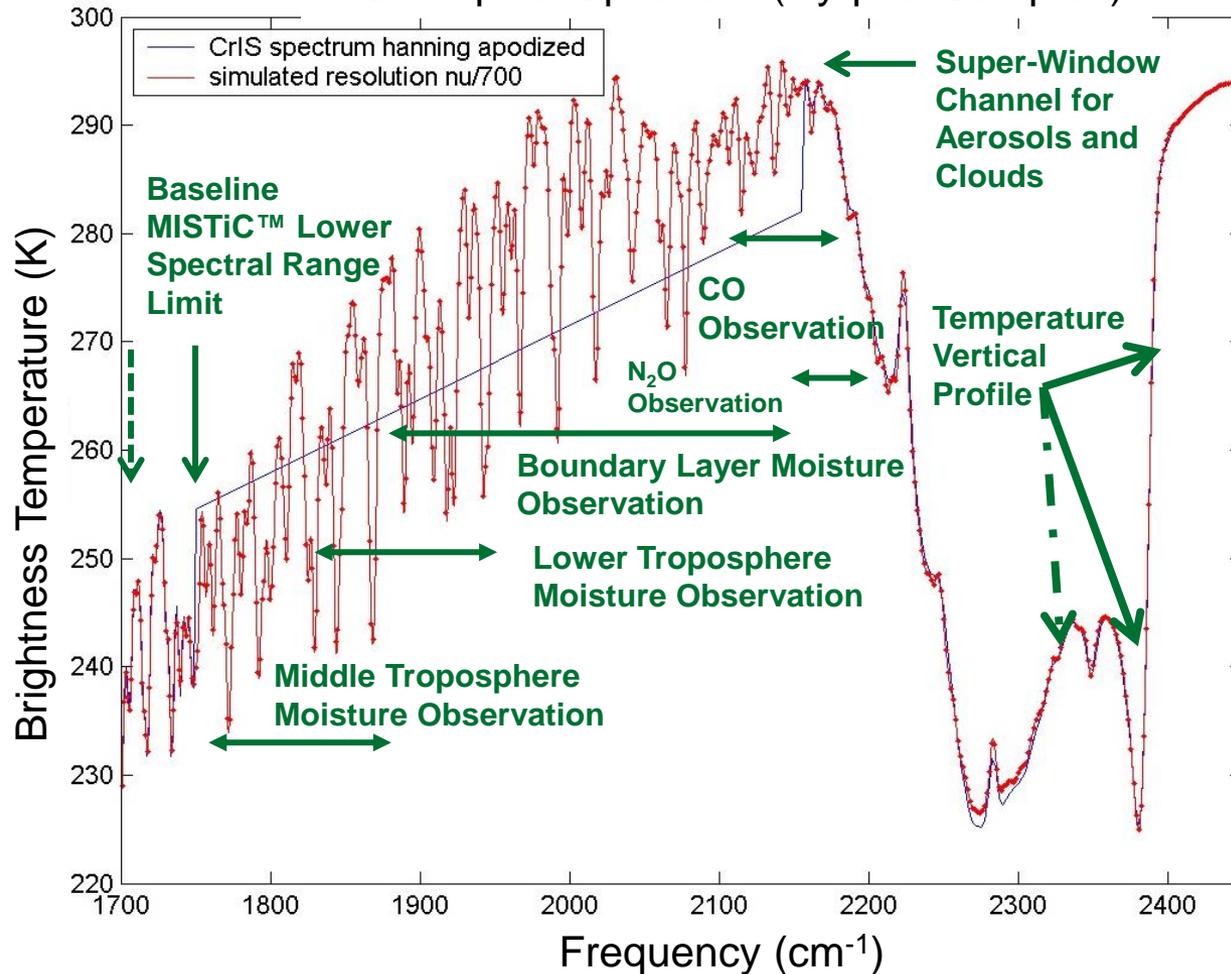
- MISTiC™ Winds' Vertical Temperature Profile Retrieval Comparable to AIRS & CrIS in Lower Troposphere**
  - Vertical Temperature Profile Retrieval Accuracy for Two Different Quality Control Thresholds Shown
    - Using All AIRS Channels—solid curves
    - Using SWIR/MWIR-Only –dashed curves
- Additional Error experienced is modest using only SWIR/MWIR Channels**
  - ≤ 0.1K Added Error in Lower Troposphere
  - NOTE-AIRS Version 6 Algorithm Primarily uses /SWIR MWIR Channels for Sounding, using LWIR Channels only for Cloud-Clearing
- Fine spatial resolution (~ 3 km @ nadir) a new benefit**
  - Yield of Cloud-Clear Observations much higher for MISTiC than for CrIS, IASI, and AIRS
  - Increased Cloud Contrast in Partly Cloudy Scenes



(from Joel Susskind NASA GSFC)

# Achieve Reduced SWaP by Reducing Number of Spectral Channels to the Mid IR only-*Sufficient to Sound the Dynamic Portion of the Atmosphere*

IASI Tropical Spectrum (Nyquist Sampled)

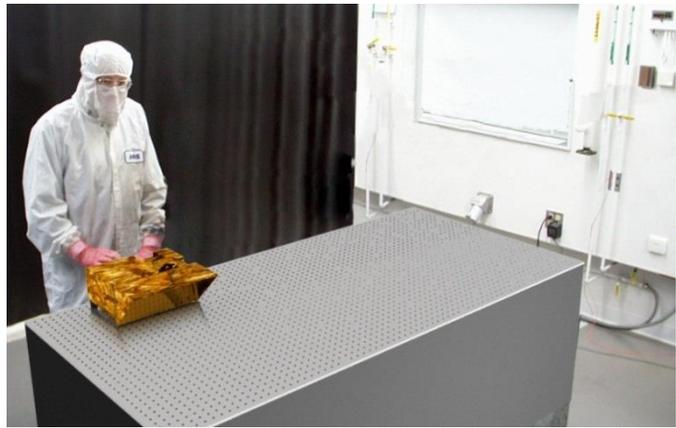


- SWIR Coverage at  $NE\Delta T$  and  $\Delta v$  Sufficient for  $CO_2$  R-Branch Temperature Sounding of Surface to Upper Troposphere
  - Sharper Vertical Resolution using Line Wings
  - Spectral Resolution  $> 700:1$  is Sufficient
- Mid-Trop.  $CO$
- Mid-Trop.  $N_2O$
- Moisture in Planetary Boundary Layer
- Moisture Profile in Lower and Middle Troposphere
  - WV Motion Vector Winds
- Clouds
  - Cloud MV Winds

Channels Below  $1750\text{ cm}^{-1}$  Needed to Observe in for Upper Troposphere—but, UT is Observed Sufficient Frequency by CrIS/IASI and ATMS

# LEO orbit and SWIR/MWIR-only Spectra Enables MISTiC™ Instrument SWaP Reduction of 1-2 Orders of Magnitude

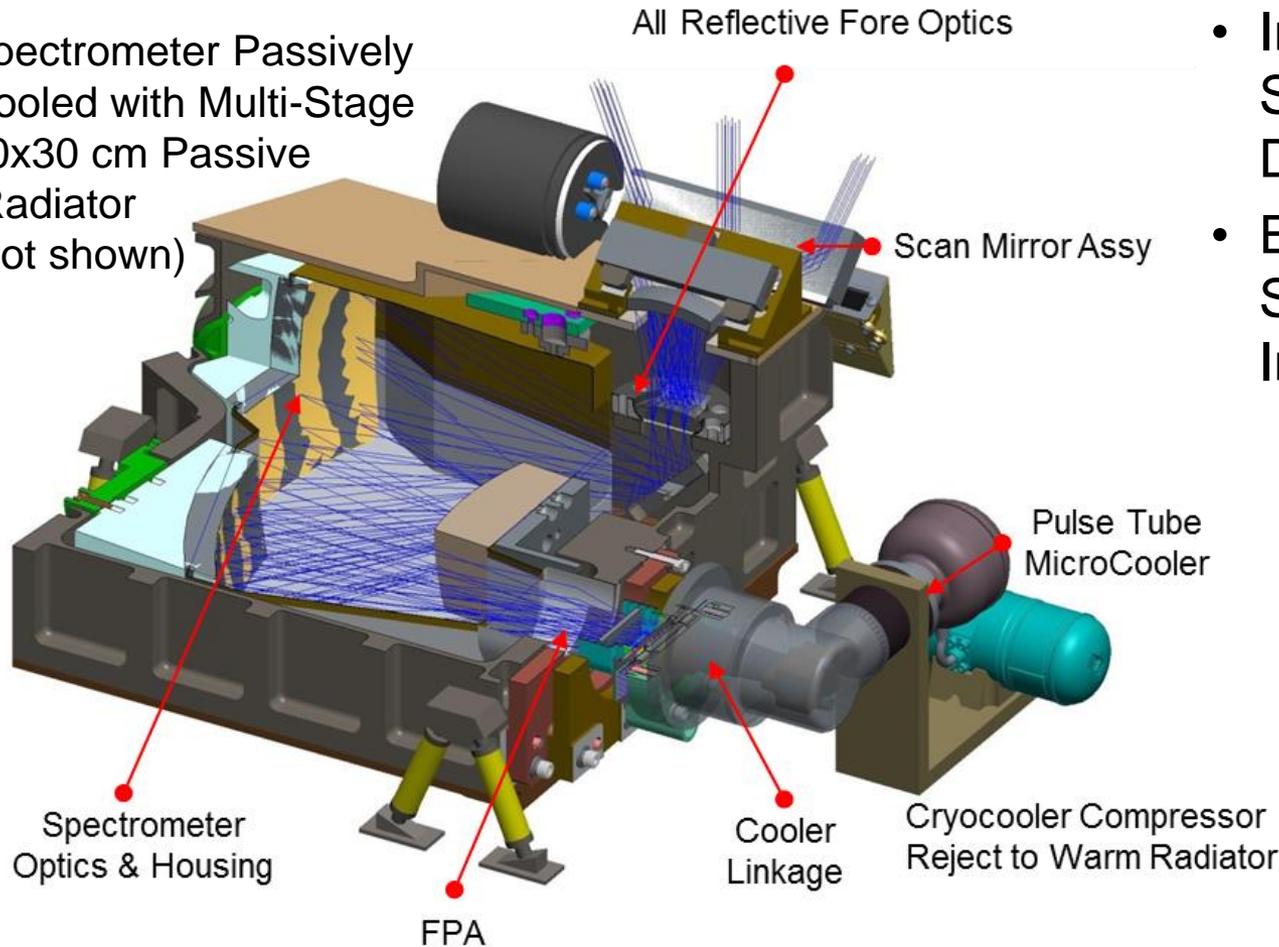
- Size Drivers
  - Geo-Stationary Imagers /Sounders Driven by Orbit Radius
  - IR Sounders Driven by # of Channels and LWIR Band Cooling
- Moving MISTiC™ to a LEO orbit and eliminating LWIR channels enables massive reduction in SWaP
  - Current concept is 60-125X less volume than Sounders proposed for GOES-R
  - Reduce power demand with an advanced FPA technology that won't require as much cooling
- IIP Instrument Concept Design in-Progress
  - Baseline envelope consistent with hosting on a 50 kg ESPA-Class Microsatellite
  - “Objective” Envelope consistent with 27U Cube sat Envelope (about 1 cubic foot of spacecraft volume)
- Small instrument size depicted continues to be feasible as instrument concept fidelity increases



Artist's Rendering Depicts a MISTiC™ Instrument, for Comparison to AIRS

# MISTiC IR Spectrometer Detailed Physical Concept

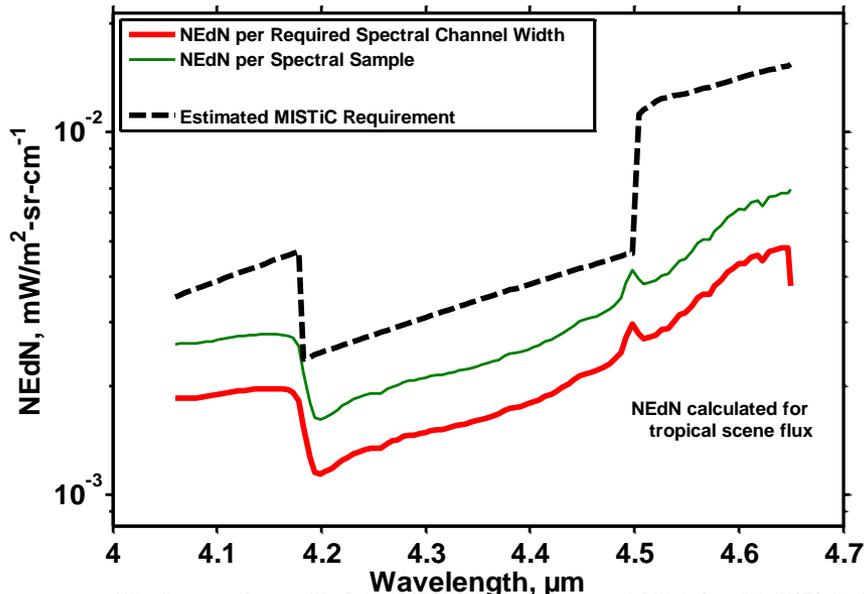
Spectrometer Passively Cooled with Multi-Stage 30x30 cm Passive Radiator (not shown)



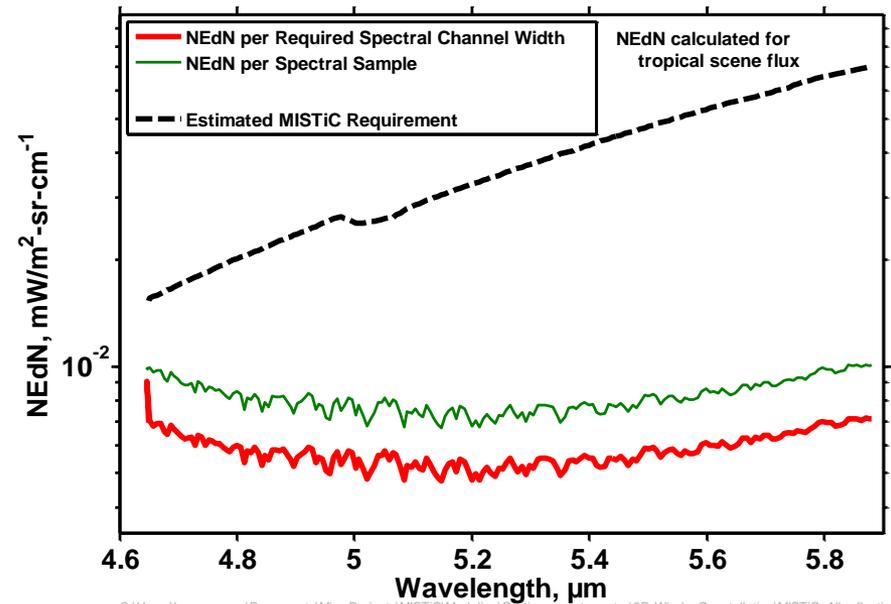
- Infrared Sounder Spectrometer Major Dimension ~ 20 cm
- Envelope Studies Show 30x30x20 cm Instrument (Stowed)
  - Compatible with:
    - 27U Cube-Sat
    - ESPA-Class MicroSat

# MISTiC™ Winds Instrument Radiometric Sensitivity Performance Estimates Show Solid Margin Against Requirements

Sounding NEdN vs Wavelength:

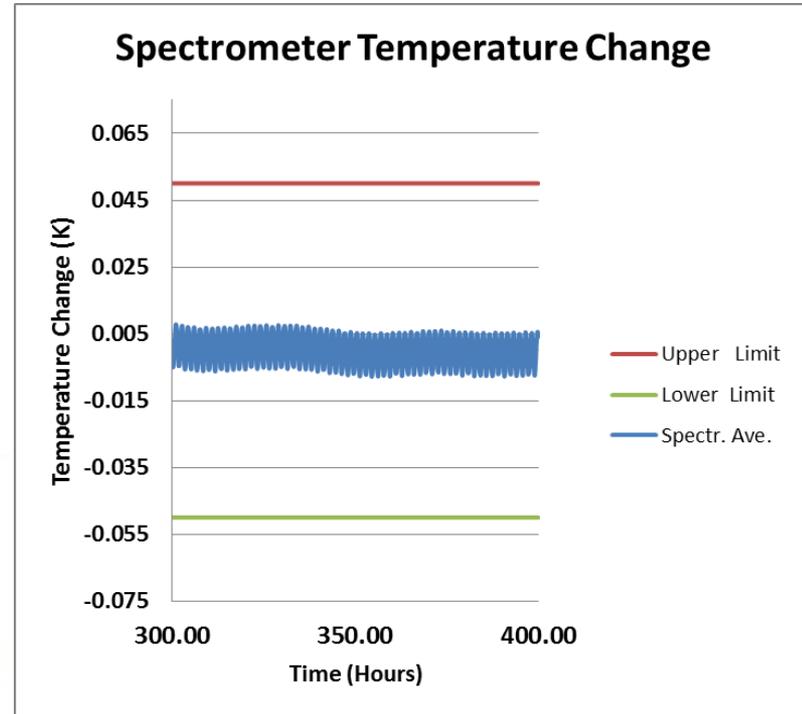
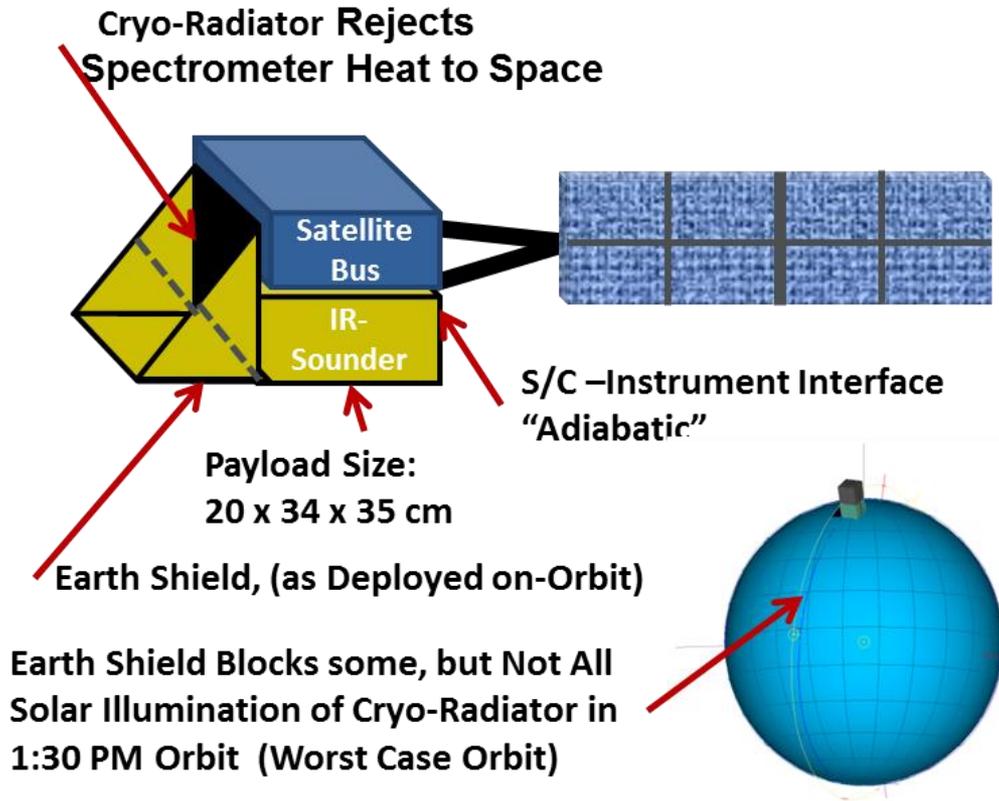


Sounding NEdN vs Wavelength:



- Spectrometer Radiometric Modeling Methods Developed for AIRS, GOES-R HES, etc used to Estimate MISTiC™ Winds Instrument Sensitivity
- Sensitivity Similar to AIRS (<200 mK @ 250K Scene) for low brightness temperature regions near 4.2 μm
- Updated APD detector noise modeling still be included in system model
  - APD FPA Vendor-modeled dark current and noise are in acceptable range for MISTiC™ at 90K

# Spectrometer Temp. Variation in Worst-Case Orbit is Small

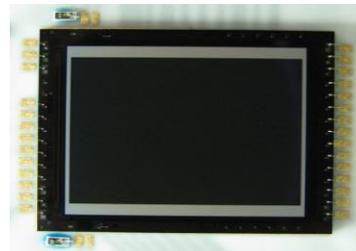


1000+-node Thermal Model Assessment

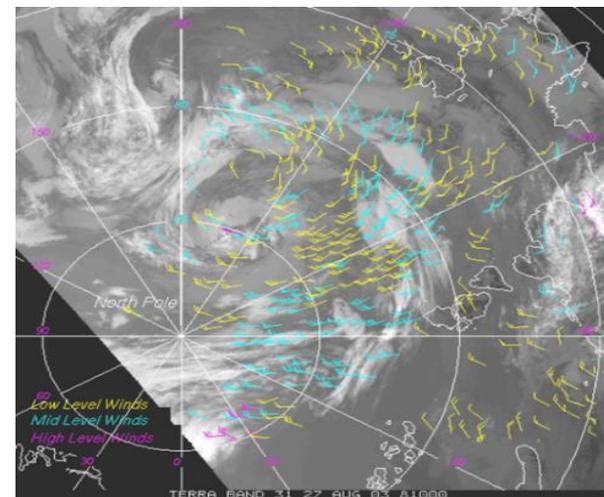
→MISTiC Meets Stringent IR Sounder Spectral Calibration Stability Requirements Within Envelope/Mass Limits of a Small Micro-Satellite

# Primary Efforts under NASA IIP Address Instrument Concept, Technology and Measurement Challenges

- **Space Mission concept development**
- Technology Risk Reduction
- Challenge: Get a higher operating temperature FPA in order to reduce cooler power
  - Benefit: Large reduction in SWAP
- Approach: Use of new APD-Class MWIR FPA
  - Risk: APD Array Not Yet Tested in Space Radiation Environment
  - Mitigation: Radiation Testing on IIP (by 9/15)
- Measurement Risk Reduction
- Challenge: Application to Highly Vertically Resolved (3D) MV Winds is highly plausible-but not demonstrated
  - Benefit: MV Winds at Low Cost -> Better weather forecasting
  - Risk: Tracer De-correlation Behavior at finer vertical resolution unknown in detail
  - Mitigation: Airborne observations of Tracer De-Correlation Times & Behavior (by 10/16)



*The MWIR HgCdTe Avalanche Photodiode-based IR Focal Plane Array Detector selected for MISTiC allows high-sensitivity hyperspectral measurements at 85K*



**MISTIC™ Winds Tracers Features Would Have Better Vertical Resolution Than MODIS Winds**

# MISTiC Winds Airborne Test CONOPS

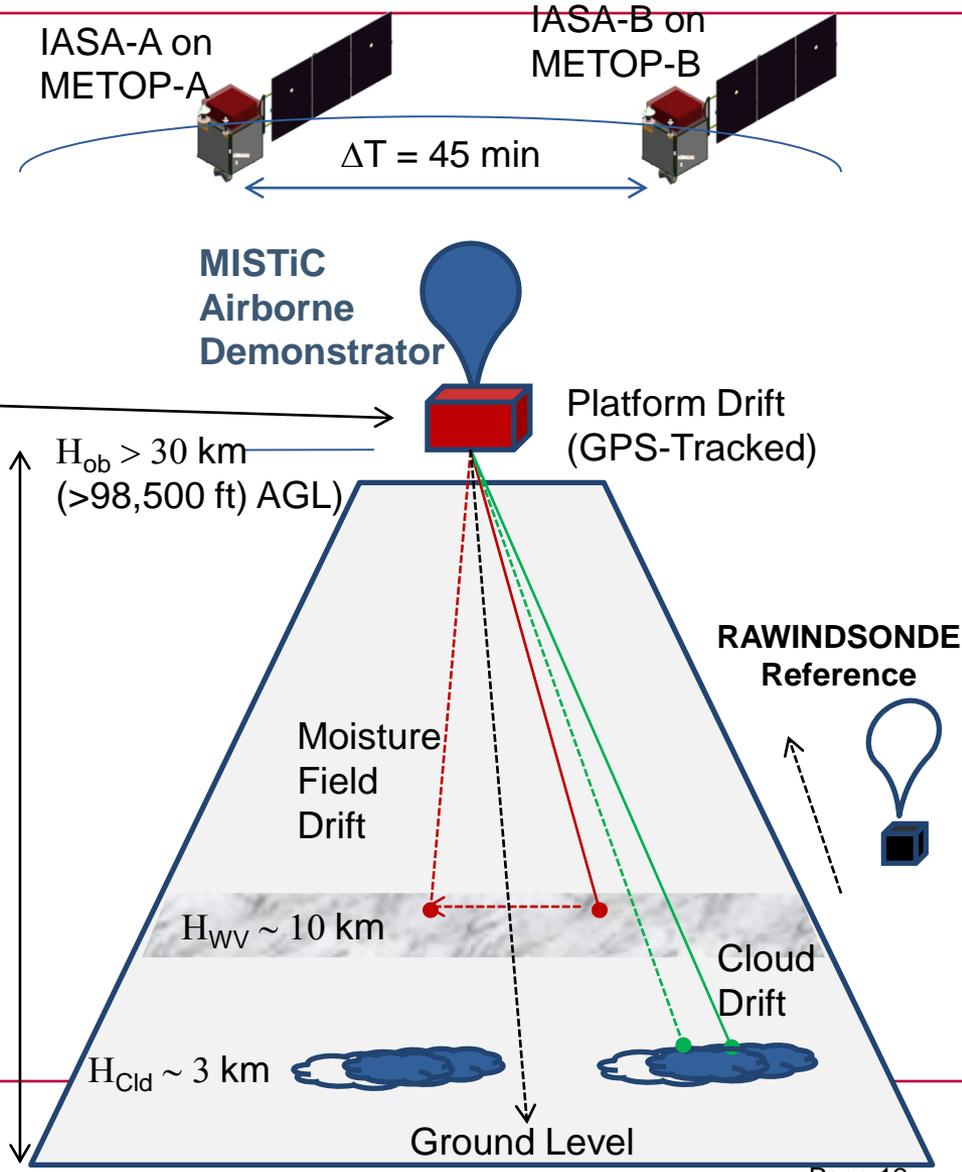
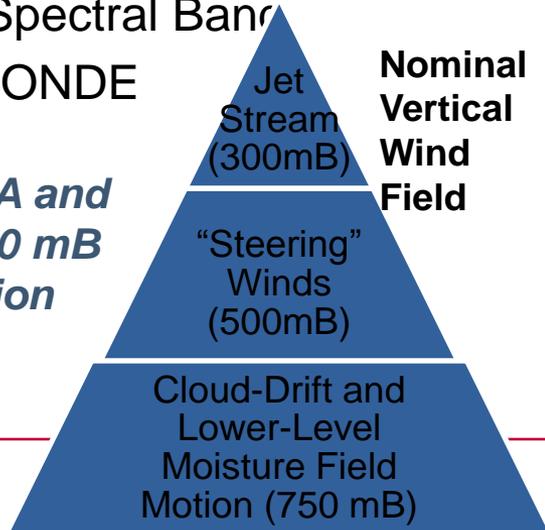
- *Test Objective:* Demonstrate Vertically-Resolved Moisture-Feature Tracking by an MWIR HSI Instrument for 500mB -Level Winds

- *Test Approach:*

- Observe with Airborne MWIR HSI Instrument (MISTiC Airborne Moisture Tracking Demonstrator)
- Under-fly METOP A and B to Correlate IASI Observations in MISTiC's Spectral Bands

- RAWINDSONDE Reference

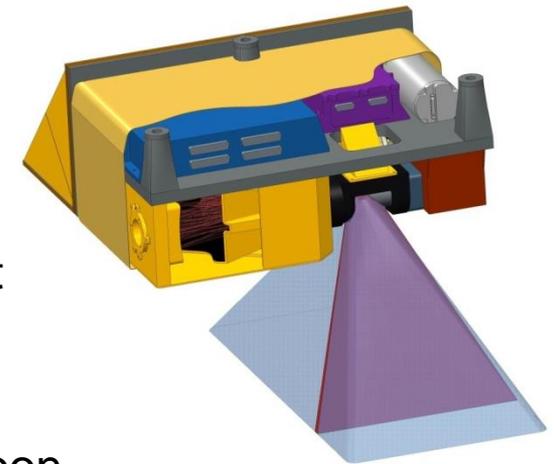
*OSSEs by NASA and NOAA Show 500 mB Wind Assimilation has Greatest Weather Forecast Impact*



## Objective: Affordable Means To Improve Fine-Scale Weather Forecasts

- Short Term Weather Benefits Multiple Users
  - Examples include
    - Airlines and air traffic control having greater knowledge of weather 3 hours out to reduce flight delays
    - Improved Power Grid Load Forecasts
  - MISTiC™ constellation can also be configured to do pollution tracking
- Near term tasks to Operational System
  - OSSE modeling to predict forecast error improvement
  - IIP mitigates technology risks
    - Radiation testing of FPA
    - Flight demonstration of concept via aircraft or balloon
  - Full Mission Development

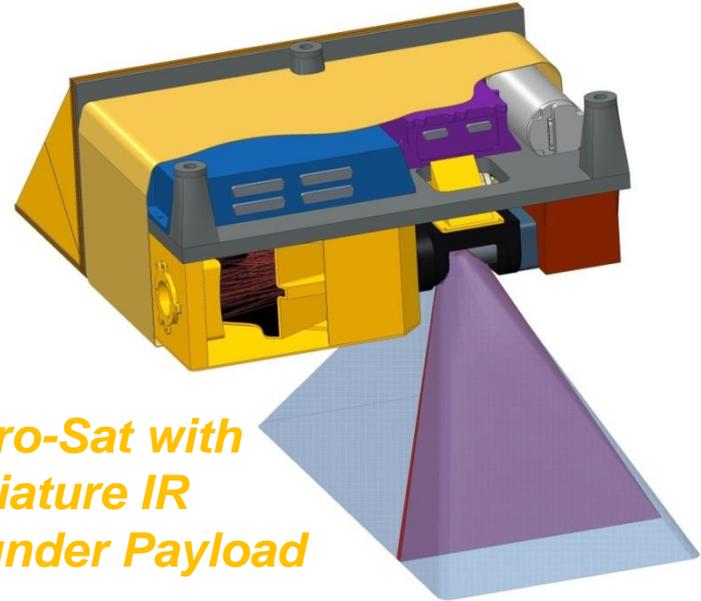
*MISTiC™ Miniature  
IR Sounder*



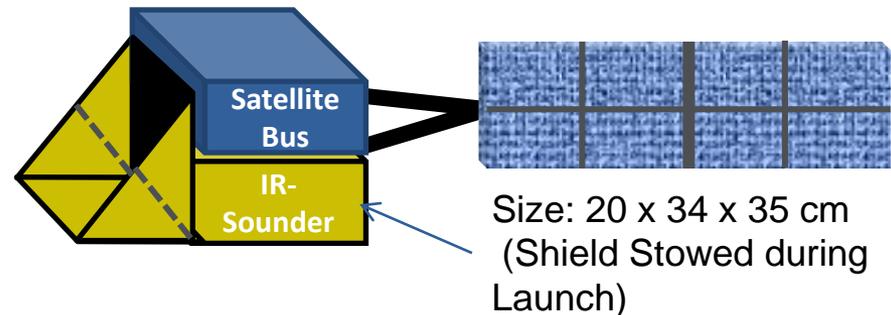
Miniature Spectrometers Operated in LEO Constellations Offer Affordable/Lower Risk Approach for Improved Short Term/Fine Scale Weather Forecasting

# MISTiC™ Winds-A Miniature High Vertical Resolution Infrared Sounder for 3D Winds and Frequent IR Soundings

## *MISTiC™ Miniature IR Sounder*



*Micro-Sat with Miniature IR Sounder Payload*



Size: 20 x 34 x 35 cm  
(Shield Stowed during Launch)

- Miniature Spectrometers Enabled by:
  - Optimized Low-Impact Spectral Channel Selection Proven through a Decade of NASA's AIRS Experience
  - Innovative Opto-Mechanical/Thermal Design Minimizes S/C Resources Needed to Cool IR Spectrometer
  - Advanced Large-Format IRFPA, Miniature Cryocooler, and Electronics
- Compact IR Sounder Design, Mature Algorithms and Technologies Enable:
  - Payload Hosting on a Micro-Satellite for a Low-Cost Total IR Sounding Mission
  - ~1 km Vertical & ~3 km Horizontal Resolution (@Nadir) in the Troposphere

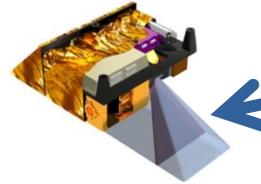
# Supplemental Material

# MISTiC Winds: Midwave Infrared Sounding of Temperature and humidity in a Constellation for Winds

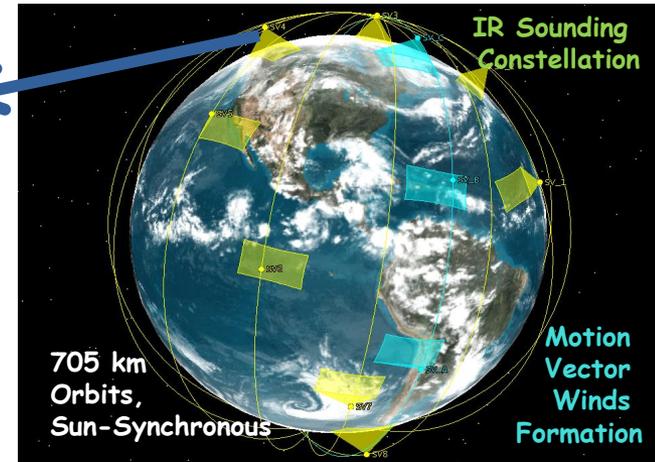
PI: Kevin R. Maschhoff, BAE Systems

Advance the readiness of a miniature, high resolution, wide field, thermal emission imaging spectrometer to measure vertically resolved tropospheric profiles of temperature and humidity for deriving global 3-D wind measurements.

- Provide ~ 2-3 km spatial resolution temperature and humidity soundings of the troposphere using an AIRS-like (Atmospheric Infra-red Sounding) method.
- Enable a LEO constellation approach that provides 3-D Wind field measurements and atmospheric state and transport observations at low system cost.
- Reduce technology risks with the Infrared Focal Plane Array (IRFPA) and spectrometer technologies critical for significant instrument size, weight and power reduction (20 x 30 x 30 cm, 15 kg, 50 W).



*MISTiC Instrument will fit on a 27U CubeSat or a ESPA-Class Micro-Sat*



- Optimize and refine space-based measurement approach based on experience with AIRS, AIRS-Light and small satellite provider experiences.
- Demonstrate calibration stability of miniature MWIR spectrometer (4.08 - 5.8 um) in ground testing.
- Demonstrate robustness of spectrometer by performing space level thermal fluctuation testing and vibration testing to launch levels.
- Verify instrument measurement capability of 3-D cloud-drift and water vapor motion vector winds on high altitude balloon or high-altitude fixed-wing platform.
- Demonstrate IRFPA space radiation tolerance (> 25 krad).

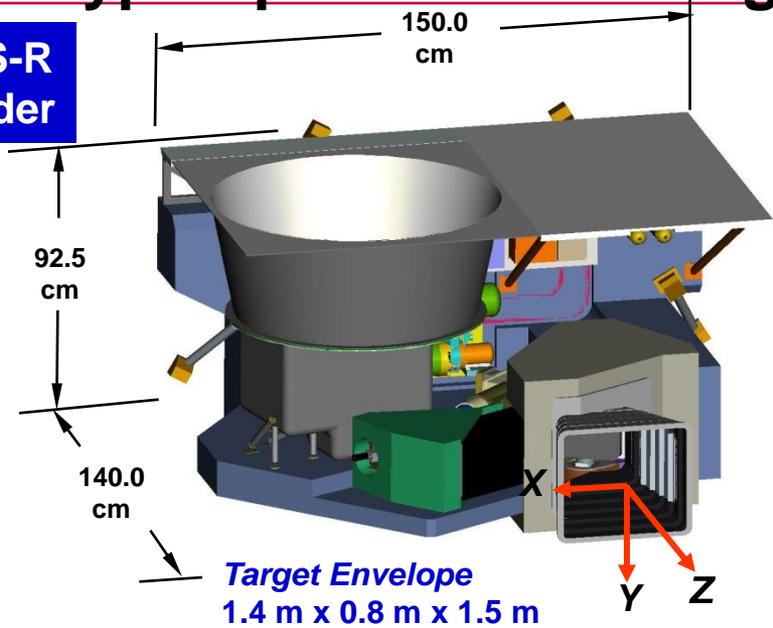
- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| • Instrument science and payload requirements review | 10/14 |
| • Instrument science and payload concept review      | 12/14 |
| • Airborne demonstration plan review                 | 06/15 |
| • Detector/ROIC radiation test/analysis complete     | 09/15 |
| • Calibration stability test complete                | 03/16 |
| • Airborne instrument design/build complete          | 05/16 |
| • Airborne demonstration complete                    | 10/16 |
| • Airborne demonstration data analysis complete      | 12/16 |

**Co-Is/Partners:** J. Susskind, NASA GSFC; H. Aumann, JPL

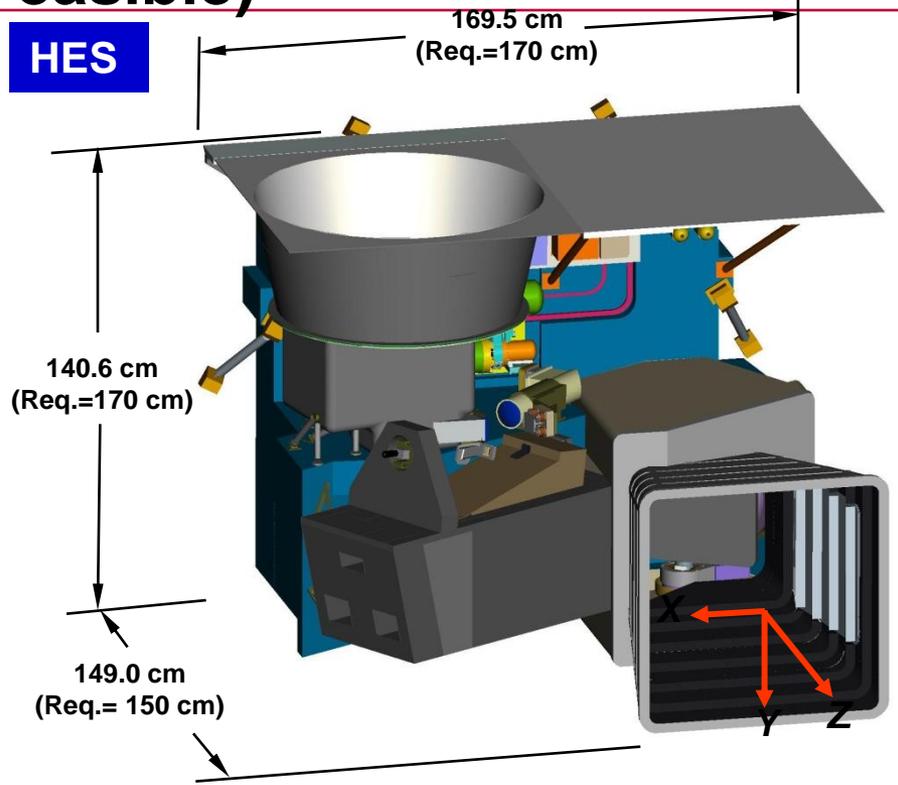
TRL<sub>in</sub> = 4      TRL<sub>current</sub> = 4

# GOES-R Sounder (HES) after Formulation Phase (Geo Hyperspectral Sounding Feasible)

**GOES-R  
Sounder**



**HES**



**GOES-R Sounder Characteristics**

- Mass: 169 kg
- Power: 223 W
- Data Rate: 1.8 Mbps
- CONUS Sounding Coverage Rate:
  - CONUS/hr @ 10 km GSD
  - (Can Provide 2x CONUS/Hr also)
- Disk Sounding Coverage Rate:
  - 62 Deg. Disk/hr @ 20 km GSD
- Meso-scale Demonstration @ 5 km

**Shared Characteristics**

- Spectral Coverage:
  - 4.165-5.92  $\mu\text{m}$  (1689-2400  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )
  - 9.65-14.7  $\mu\text{m}$  (680-1036  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )
- Spectral Resolution:  $\lambda/\delta\lambda > 1000$
- NE $\Delta$ T: 0.2K
- Spectral Stability:  $< 0.01 \delta\lambda$

**HES Characteristics**

- Mass: 214 kg
- Power: 326 W
- Data Rate: 7.3 Mbps
- SW/M Coverage Rate:
  - CONUS/hr @ 5 km GSD
- Disk Sounding Coverage Rate:
  - 62 Deg. Disk/hr @ 10 km GSD

# GOES-R Advanced Baseline Imager, AIRS, and CrIS



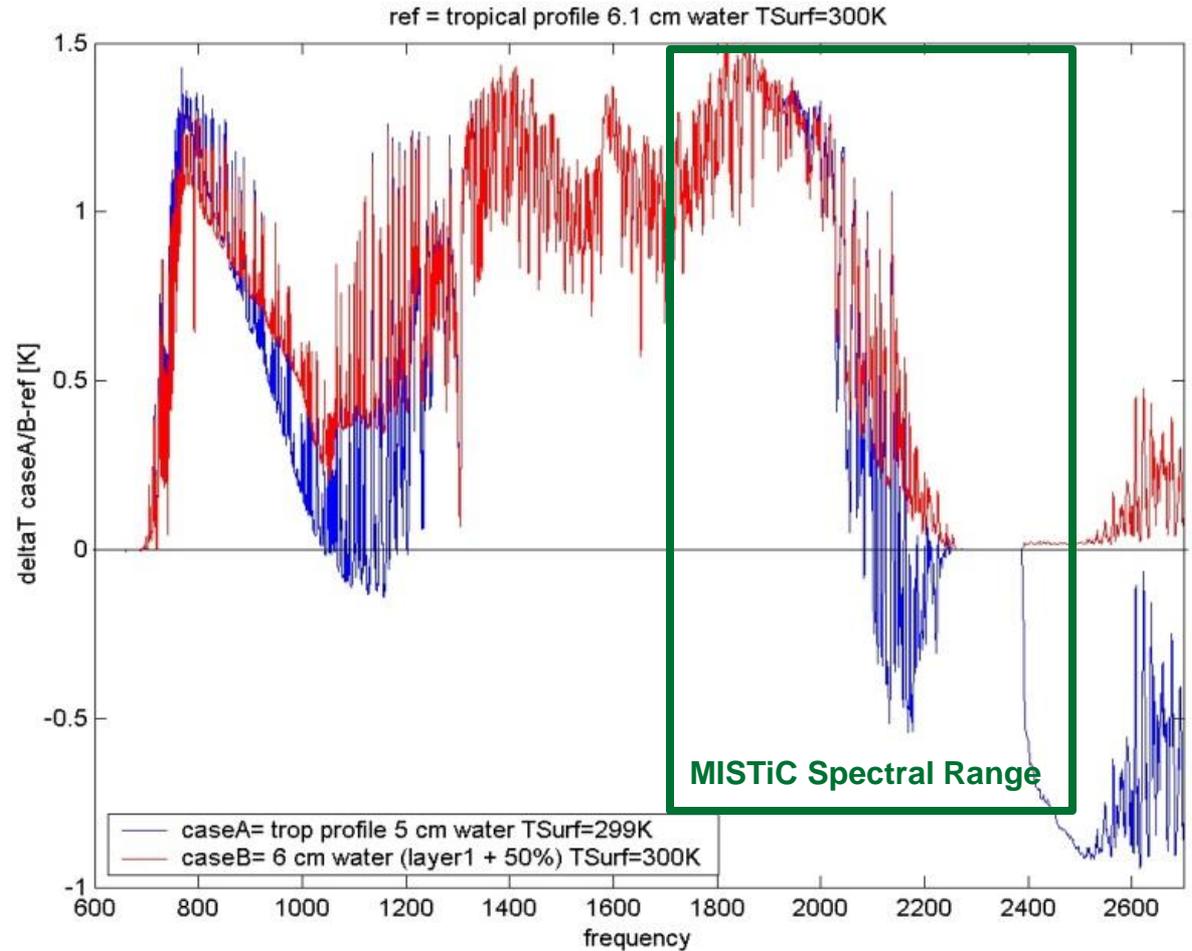
- Size of Geo-Stationary Imagers/Sounders Driven by Orbit Radius
- Size of IR Sounders Driven by # of Channels and LWIR Band Cooling

# Observing Water Vapor in the Boundary Layer within the MISTiC Spectral Range

Modeled  
Brightness  
Temperature  
Change Due to  
Increase in  
Boundary  
Layer Moisture

- Red 5 cm H<sub>2</sub>O
- Blue 6 cm H<sub>2</sub>O

(Provided by:  
*H. H. Aumann, JPL*)



# MISTiC™ Winds Observes the Atmospheric State (p(x), T(x), q(x)) and Wind Field- *Simultaneously*

- Mass-Field Motion-Vector Methods Measure the Total Wind Field (geostrophic and ageostrophic components)

$$\vec{V} = \vec{V}_g + \vec{V}_a$$

- IR Sounders Measure Atmospheric State Variables that Enable Computation of the Steady State Wind Components

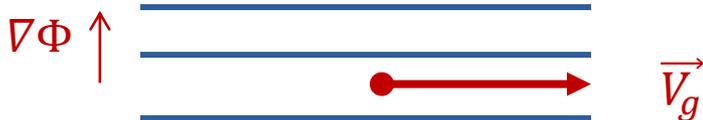
- Geostrophic Wind → Steady Horizontal Flow
- Gradient Wind → Steady Curved Flow

## Acceleration-Related to Ageostrophic Wind

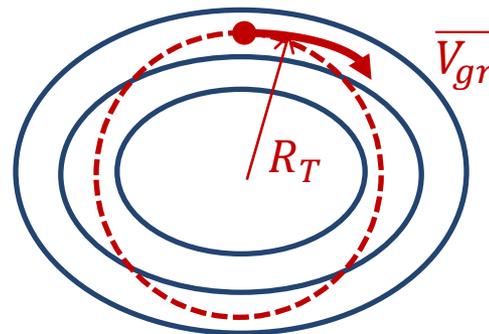
$$\frac{D\vec{V}}{Dt} = -f \times \vec{V}_a$$

Ageostrophic Wind → Indicative of Weather Pattern Change

$$\vec{V}_g \cong \frac{1}{f} \vec{k} \times \nabla \Phi = \frac{R}{f} \ln \left( \frac{p_0}{p_1} \right) \vec{k} \times \nabla_p T(\vec{x})$$



Geostrophic Wind

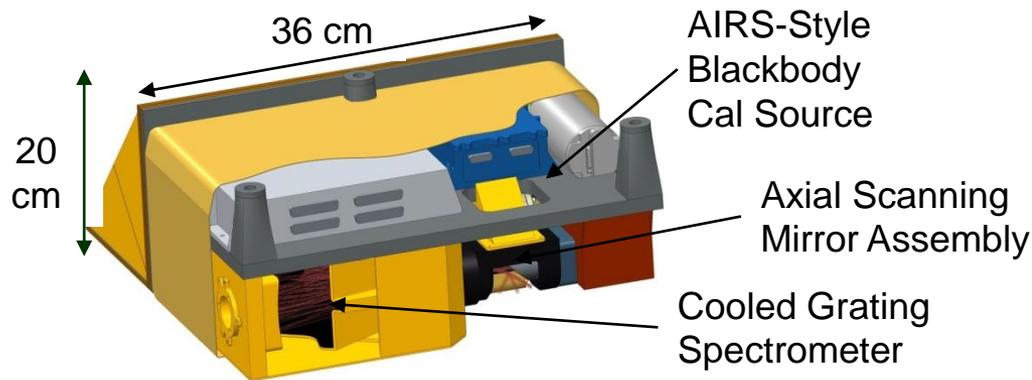
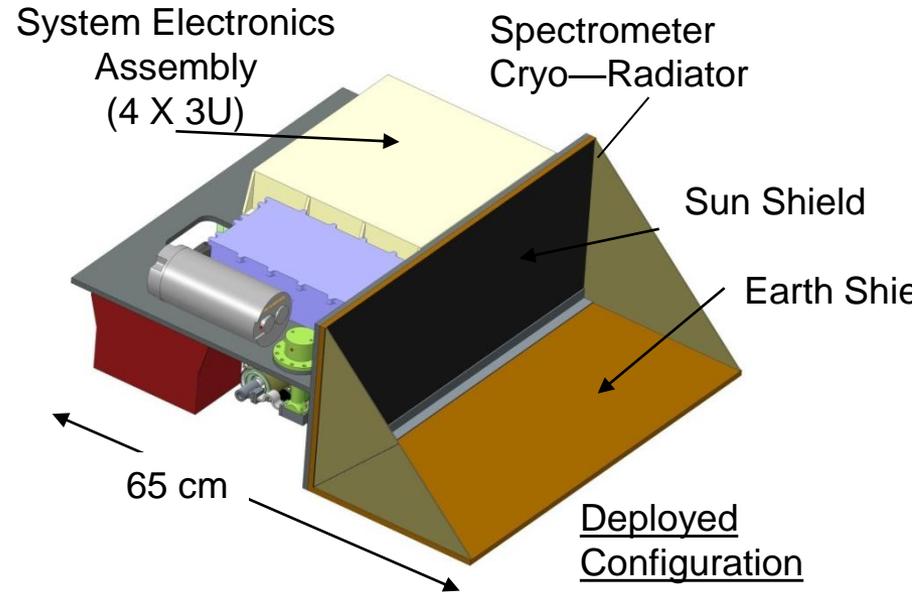
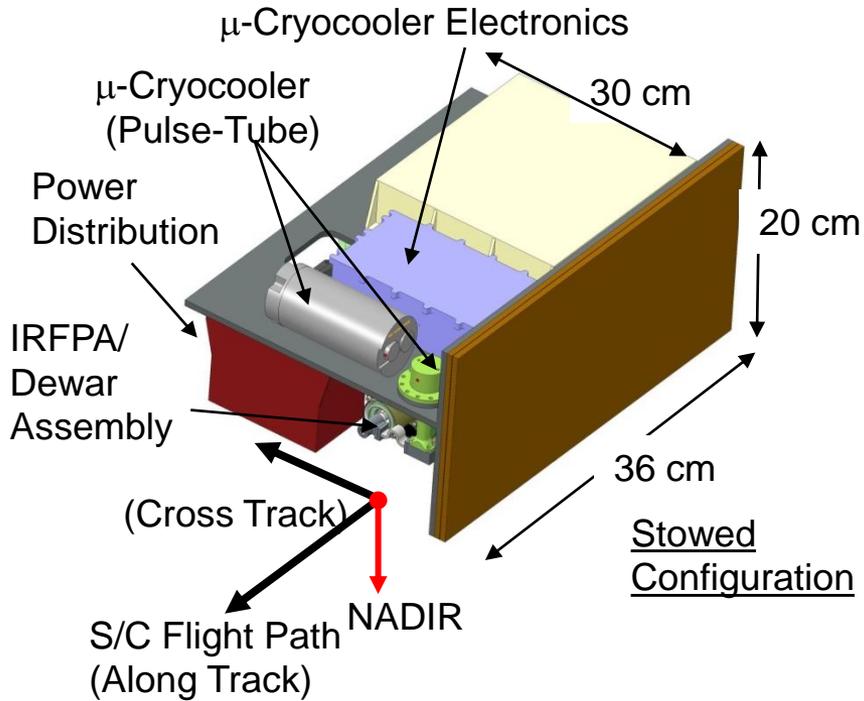


Gradient Wind

$$V_{gr} = \frac{2V_g}{1 + \left(1 + 4\frac{V_g}{fR_T}\right)^{1/2}}$$

$\Phi$ =Geopotential  
 p's are pressure  
 V's are wind velocity  
 f=Coriolis Factor

# MISTiC™ Integrates Miniaturized Versions of Standard IR Sounder Functional Elements into a Flight Proven Architecture



Includes all Elements Needed to Produce Well-Calibrated Infrared Radiances

**Example Instrument Configuration Shown -Instrument Configuration Study In-Progress**

# MISTiC™ Winds is Well-Positioned to Leverage Key Trends in Microsatellites --in the Age of “Agile” Space

Industry Trend	Public Examples	Benefit to MISTiC™ Winds
<b><i>Launch Becomes an Affordable Service</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● SpaceX Lands its Falcon-9 Booster—Reusable S/C</li> <li>● F15-Launched Booster</li> <li>● Rail-Gun Launched Rocket Booster (Super STRYPI)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Multiple Routes to LEO Space for ~ \$1M-\$3M per 50 kg Spacecraft</li> <li>● Launch Opportunities</li> </ul>
<b><i>MicroSats Becomes a High-Tech Semi-Custom Commodities</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 3-d Printed 27U Spacecraft Demo. (Millennium Space)</li> <li>● Multiple MicroSat Vendors Offer 50 kg bus</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 27-U CubeSat (\$1M-\$3M)</li> <li>● Competitive Pressure to Maintain Low Costs and Availability-for MISTiC™ Host</li> </ul>
<b><i>S/C Component Evolution -Follow Moore’s Law-Like Improvement Path</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Active Market Place for Standard S/C subsystems (Reaction Wheels, Solar Panels, Batteries, Coms, etc)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Majority of S/C Resources Available for Payload</li> <li>● Low-cost Arc-Sec class ACS</li> </ul>
<b><i>Communications and Ground Stations Become Affordable Standard Services</i></b>	<p>Standard Ground Stations with X-Band (Space Flt Networks)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● \$50k/mo (dedicated) or</li> <li>● \$20/minute (shared)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Affordable Polar and Selected Mid-Latitude x-Band Coms and Ground Stations for MISTiC™</li> </ul>

# Key MISTiC 3D Winds System (of Systems) - Level Performance Requirements (draft)

KPP	KPP Attribute	Requirement
3D Motion Vector Winds	Layer Wind Speed Uncertainty	< 2 m/s rms
	Layer Wind Direction Uncertainty (above 10 m/s)	< 10 degrees rms
(Moisture and Cloud Motion Vectors)	Layer Height Pressure Height Assignment Error	<30 mB
	Layer Effective Vertical Thickness	<100 mB
	Minimum Pressure of Highest Pressure-Level	<350 mB (MMV) <500 mB (CMMV)
	Tracer Potential Density (Cloud-Free Conditions for MMV, Cloud Contrast for CMV)	>1 per 6 km sq per vertical layer :
Temperature Vertical Profile	Layer Effective Vertical Thickness	>100 mB (~ 1 km)
	Layer Temperature Accuracy	>1 K
	Sounding Measurement Potential Density	> 1 per 6 km sq
ObsFrequency	Observation Refresh Period	<3 hours (4 planes)

MISTiC Winds Observes both Total Wind Velocity Vector and the (via IR Sounding) the Geostrophic/Gradient Wind Vector Component in  $\geq 6$  Layers